**Second phase of NREGS**

998. SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to launch the second phase of the National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, indicating the districts that would be covered under the second phase in Orissa?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Union Budget 2007-08 envisages provision for inclusion of 130 more districts in second phase of the NREGA. The names of districts to be covered in 2nd phase in Orissa will be declared in due course.

**Tardy progress of NREGA**

999. SHRI PENUMALLI MADHU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the progress of NREGA programme is tardy;

(b) whether it is due to lack of proper administrative machinery for completion of process of registration and preparation of projects etc.;

(c) whether the funds allotted for training and administration are insufficient; and

(d) whether Government had any proposals to raise the administrative expenses from two per cent to five per cent; if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI CHANDRA SEKHAR SAHU): (a) to (c) No. Sir. However, efforts are on to further strengthen the processes under NREGA.

(d) A proposal seeking to raise the Administrative expenses under NREGA from 2% to 4% has been approved by the Cabinet.